United Nations A/65/L.62/Rev.1

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
19 May 2011

Original: English

Sixty-fifth session
Agenda item 62 (b)
New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support: causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

Argentina:* revised draft resolution

Implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling the report of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on the Causes of Conflict and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa,[1] its resolution 53/92 of 7 December 1998 and subsequent annual resolutions, including resolutions 60/223 of 23 December 2005, 61/230 of 22 December 2006, 62/275 of 11 September 2008, 63/304 of 23 July 2009 and 64/252 of 8 February 2010, as well as its resolutions 62/179 of 19 December 2007, 63/267 of 31 March 2009 and 64/258 of 16 March 2010 on the New Partnership for Africa's Development, and 59/213 of 20 December 2004, 61/296 of 17 September 2007 and 63/310 of 14 September 2009 on cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union,

Recalling also, in this context, Security Council resolutions 1809 (2008) of 16 April 2008 on peace and security in Africa, 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 and 1820 (2008) of 19 June 2008 on women and peace and security, 1366 (2001) of 30 August 2001 on the role of the Council in the prevention of armed conflicts, 1612 (2005) of 26 July 2005 on children and armed conflict, 1625 (2005) of 14 September 2005 on strengthening the effectiveness of the role of the Council in conflict prevention, particularly in Africa, and 1631 (2005) of 17 October 2005 on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 45* (A/56/45).

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Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[2] through which world leaders reaffirmed their commitment to addressing the special needs of Africa, and its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006,

Reaffirming the political declaration on Africa's development needs adopted at the high-level meeting on Africa's development needs on 22 September 2008,[3]

Recalling the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome,

Recognizing that development, peace, security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing,

Stressing that the responsibility for peace and security in Africa, including the capacity to address the root causes of conflict and to resolve conflicts in a peaceful manner, lies primarily with African countries, while recognizing the need for support from the international community and the United Nations, taking into account the responsibilities of the United Nations in this regard, according to the Charter,

Recognizing, in particular, the importance of strengthening the capacity of the African Union and subregional organizations to address the causes of conflict in Africa,

Noting that, despite the positive trends and advances in obtaining durable peace in Africa, the conditions required for sustainable development have yet to be consolidated throughout the continent and that there is therefore an urgent need to continue developing African human and institutional capacities, particularly in countries emerging from conflict,

Noting also that conflict prevention and the consolidation of peace would benefit from the coordinated, sustained and integrated efforts of the United Nations system and Member States and regional and subregional organizations, as well as international and regional financial institutions,

Reaffirming the need to strengthen the synergy between Africa's economic and social development programmes and its peace and security agenda,

Underlining the need to address the negative implications of the illegal exploitation of natural resources in all its aspects for peace, security and development in Africa, and condemning illicit trade in natural resources that fuels armed conflict, and the illicit trade in and proliferation of arms, especially small arms and light weapons,

Reaffirming the importance of the Peacebuilding Commission as a dedicated mechanism to address, within its existing mandate and in an integrated manner, the special needs of countries emerging from conflict towards recovery, reintegration and reconstruction and to assist them in laying the foundation for peace and sustainable development, taking into consideration the principle of national ownership,

Welcoming the establishment of the United Nations Office to the African Union to enhance the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union

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[2] See resolution 60/1.

[3] See resolution 63/1.

particularly in the areas of peace, security and political and humanitarian affairs, and reaffirming the need to ensure coordination and increase cost effectiveness among relevant entities of the United Nations system involved in the implementation of the ten-year capacity-building programme, in particular the Economic Commission for Africa and the United Nations Office to the African Union, whose efforts are critical,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General[4] on the review of the implementation of the recommendations contained in his report on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa,[5] and underlines the progress made and the challenges in addressing such causes;

2. *Welcomes* the progress made, in particular by the African Union and subregional organizations, in the prevention, management and resolution of conflict and in post-conflict peacebuilding in a number of African countries, and calls for intensified efforts and a coordinated approach between national Governments, the African Union, subregional organizations, the United Nations system and partners with a view to achieving further progress towards the goal of a conflict-free Africa;

3. *Also welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the African Union and subregional organizations to strengthen their peacekeeping capacity and to take the lead in peacekeeping operations on the continent, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations and in close coordination with the United Nations, through the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, as well as ongoing efforts to develop a continental early warning system, response capacity, such as the African Standby Force, and enhanced mediation capacity, including through the Panel of the Wise;

4. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and Member States to support the peace consolidation mechanisms and processes, including the Panel of the Wise, the African Union Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development Framework and the continental early warning system, including its subregional components, as well as the operationalization of the African Standby Force;

5. *Calls upon* Member States to support relevant United Nations bodies, including the Peacebuilding Commission, and to assist post-conflict countries, at their request, in achieving a smooth transition from relief to development;

6. *Stresses* the importance of creating an environment conducive to national reconciliation and social and economic recovery in countries emerging from conflict;

7. *Invites* the United Nations and the donor community to increase efforts to support ongoing regional efforts to build African mediation and negotiation capacity;

8. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and Member States to support the African Union in its effort to effectively integrate training in international humanitarian law and international human rights law, with particular emphasis on the rights of women and children, in the training of civilian and military personnel of national standby contingents at both the operational and tactical levels, as set out

[4] A/65/152-S/2010/526.
[5] A/52/871-S/1998/318.

in article 13 of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union;[6]

9. *Recognizes* that international and regional efforts to prevent conflict and consolidate peace in Africa should be channelled towards the sustainable development of Africa and the human and institutional capacity-building of African countries and organizations, particularly in priority areas identified at the continental level;

10. *Recalls* the signing of the declaration on enhancing cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union in Addis Ababa on 16 November 2006[7] and the ongoing efforts in this regard, and underlines the importance of the implementation of the ten-year capacity-building programme for the African Union, in particular the operationalization of the African Standby Force, urges all stakeholders to support the full implementation of the ten-year capacity-building programme in all its aspects, and requests the Secretary-General to report on the progress achieved in this regard;

11. *Stresses* the critical importance of a regional approach to conflict prevention, in particular with respect to cross-border issues such as transnational organized crime, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes, the prevention of the illegal exploitation of natural resources and trafficking in high value commodities and the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, and emphasizes in this regard the central role of the African Union and subregional organizations in addressing such issues;

12. *Notes with concern* that violence against women and children continues and often increases, even as armed conflicts draw to an end, urges further progress in the implementation of policies and guidelines relating to the protection of and assistance to women and children in conflict and post-conflict situations in Africa, notes the adoption by the Security Council of its resolution 1820 (2008) on women and peace and security, and welcomes the appointment of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and invites support for the implementation of her mandate in Africa;

13. *Also notes with concern* the tragic plight of children in conflict situations in Africa, in particular the phenomenon of child soldiers, as well as other grave violations against children, and stresses the need for the protection of children in armed conflicts, post-conflict counselling, rehabilitation and education, with due regard for the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council;

14. *Calls for* the enhancement of the role of women in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and post-conflict peacebuilding, consistent with Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008);

15. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the African Union to ensure the protection of the rights of women in conflict and post-conflict situations, recalls in this regard the adoption and entry into force of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (2003), the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (2004) and the African Union

[6] Available from www.africa-union.org.

[7] A/61/630, annex.

Gender Policy (2009),[6] as well as the Southern African Development Community Protocol on Gender and Development (2008),[8] stresses the significance of those instruments for all countries in Africa in strengthening the role of women in peace and conflict prevention on the continent, and strongly urges the United Nations and all parties to redouble their efforts and support in this regard;

16. *Takes note* of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention) and the Kampala Declaration on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Declaration);

17. *Calls for* the safeguarding of the principle of refugee protection in Africa and the resolution of the plight of refugees, including through support for efforts aimed at addressing the causes of refugee movement and bringing about the voluntary, dignified, safe and sustainable return and reintegration of those populations, and calls upon the international community, including States and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other relevant United Nations organizations, within their respective mandates, to take concrete action to meet the protection and assistance needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons and to contribute generously to projects and programmes aimed at alleviating their plight, facilitating durable solutions for refugees and displaced persons and supporting vulnerable local host communities;

18. *Welcomes* African-led initiatives to strengthen political, economic and corporate governance such as the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance and the African Peer Review Mechanism and encourages even more African countries to participate in this process, and calls upon the United Nations system and Member States to assist African Member States and regional and subregional organizations in their efforts to enhance good governance, including the promotion of the rule of law and the holding of free and fair elections;

19. *Recognizes* the role of the Peacebuilding Commission in ensuring that national ownership of the peacebuilding process in countries emerging from conflict is observed and that nationally identified priorities are at the core of international and regional efforts in post-conflict peacebuilding in the countries under consideration, notes the important steps taken by the Commission in engaging with Sierra Leone, Burundi, Guinea-Bissau, the Central African Republic and Liberia through integrated peacebuilding strategies, calls for sustained regional and international commitment to the implementation of those strategies and looks forward to the development of an integrated peacebuilding strategy for Guinea;

20. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and invites Member States to assist African countries emerging from conflict in their efforts to build national capacities, including through the rehabilitation of the security sector, the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants, provision for the safe return of internally displaced persons and refugees, the launch of income-generation activities, particularly for youth and women, and the delivery of basic public services;

21. *Stresses* the importance of effectively addressing challenges that continue to hamper the achievement of peace, stability and sustainable development on the

[8] Available from www.sadc.int.

continent, inter alia, the food, fuel and financial crises, the increased prevalence of infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, the effects of global warming and climate change, the extremely high rates of youth unemployment, social exclusion, corruption, human trafficking, rapid urbanization and city slums, massive displacements of people, the emergence of terrorist networks, maritime security and the increased activity of transnational organized crime, including drug trafficking, and in this regard encourages the United Nations system and Member States to assist African countries in effectively addressing these challenges;

22. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and bilateral and multilateral partners, as well as new partners, to deliver expeditiously on commitments and to ensure the full and speedy implementation of the provisions of the political declaration on Africa's development needs,[3] as well as the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

23. *Stresses* the need to promote socio-economic development in the continent and in this context takes note of the Declaration on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa, adopted by the African Union in 2004, as well as the recommendations of the Millennium Development Goals Africa Steering Group, which were endorsed by the African Union in July 2008 and cover such critical areas as agriculture and food security, education, health, infrastructure and trade facilitation and the national statistical system;

24. *Encourages* African Governments to strengthen structures and policies to create an environment conducive to attracting foreign direct investment and to promote socio-economic development and social justice, calls upon African Member States and regional and subregional organizations to assist the African countries concerned, at their request, by enhancing their capacity to devise and improve their national natural resources and public revenue management structures, and in this regard invites the international community to assist in that process by providing adequate financial and technical assistance, as well as by renewing its commitment to efforts aimed at combating the illegal exploitation of the natural resources of those countries in conformity with international law;

25. *Notes* the completion of the review of the implementation of the recommendations contained in the 1998 report of the Secretary-General, and requests the Secretary-General to develop, in consultation with relevant partners, policy proposals on issues identified in his report;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to monitor and report to the General Assembly on an annual basis on persistent and emerging challenges to the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa, as well as on the approach and support of the United Nations system.